

How to Clean Your AeroGarden™ Pump

A Clean Pump Helps Keep Your Garden Healthy and Productive!

A Note About These Instructions

Cleaning an AeroGarden *Pump* entails disassembling a portion of your AeroGarden, taking apart the *Pump*, cleaning all the *Pump Parts*, and then putting the *Pump* back together.

We realize that not everyone is comfortable diving into the inside of an AeroGarden. If you are wary about taking your *Pump* apart, or get stuck anywhere during the process, please call Customer Service to discuss options for replacing your *Pump*.

Why Clean Your Pump

A clean *Pump* really does help keep your garden healthy and productive. Cleaning removes nutrient residue and/or plant roots that can clog your *Pump* and prevent the flow of water and nutrients to your plants. It also reduces *Pump* noise.

When To Clean Your Pump

We recommend that you clean your AeroGarden *Pump* after every Garden has reached the end of its life. This will ensure that nutrients and/or plant roots do not clog the water flow in your next Garden. The most convenient time to clean the *Pump* is during the **"Prepare for Your Next Garden"** cleaning steps, which can be found in the back of any *Seed/Plant Kit Guide*.

In some instances, a planted AeroGarden may start to make noise. This can be a sign of residue build-up inside the *Pump*. If this occurs, we recommend cleaning the *Pump* at the time you notice the noise. This will not harm your plants.

Supplies Needed:

- Small flat-head screwdriver
- Small pliers or tweezers (*optional*)
- Butter knife
- Sink with hot water
- Dish soap
- Towel (*optional*)
- Extra AeroGarden *Filters*

Additional Supplies for a Planted Garden:

- Shallow dish (such as baking pan)
- 1 Gallon container (such as a bucket, large bowl or cooking pot)

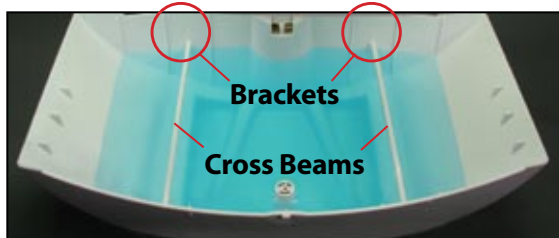
Time Needed:

Approximately 20-25 minutes the first time and 15 minutes once familiar with the process

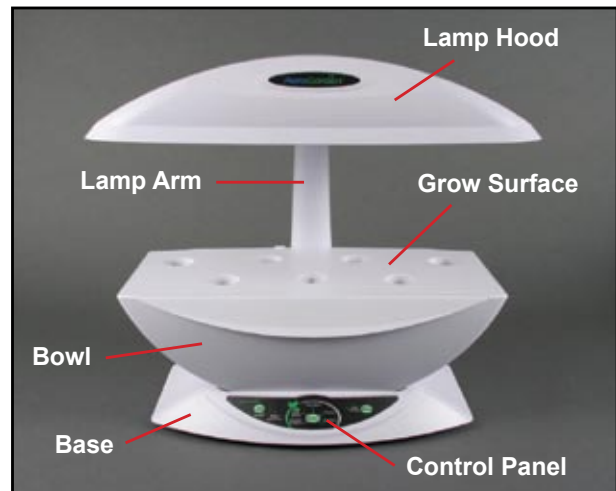
AeroGarden Components

Please refer to these photos, and the one on page 2, to identify parts referred to in the *Pump Cleaning instructions*.

Cross Beams & Brackets

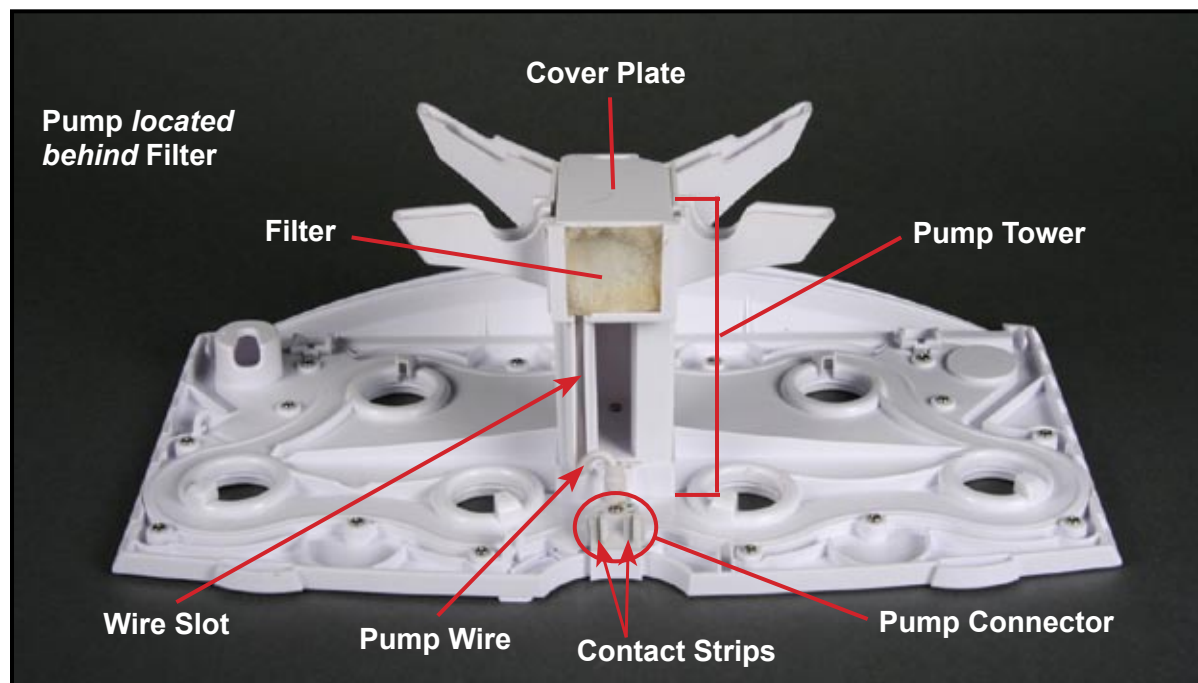


AeroGarden



AeroGarden Components *(continued)*

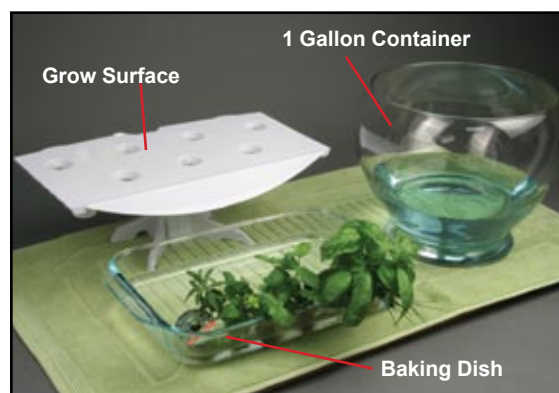
Grow Surface *(upside down)*



1 Remove & Save AeroGarden Water & Seed Pods

Skip this step if your AeroGarden is not planted and proceed to Step 2 on page 3.

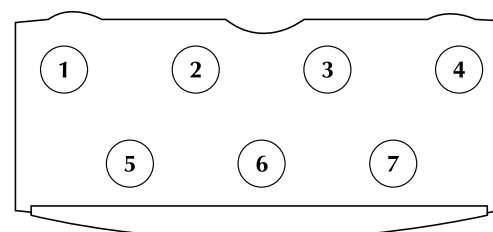
- (A) Unplug your AeroGarden.
- (B) Remove *Bowl* from *Base*.
- (C) Remove *Grow Surface* and place in sink (or on towel) as roots will drip water.
- (D) Pour water from *Bowl* into shallow dish to a depth of 1".
- (E) Pour remaining water from *Bowl* into container that holds at least 1 gallon and set aside.
- (F) Gently remove *Seed Pods* from *Grow Surface** and place plants upright in shallow dish. Be sure roots are in water.



Don't worry if you tear a few roots or if the *Cross Beams* come out with the roots. *Cross Beams* can easily be placed back in position (see *Troubleshooting* for instructions).

*Use the illustration and corresponding numbered spaces to indicate where *Seed Pods* are located in the *Grow Surface Openings* so you can replace them in the same position later.

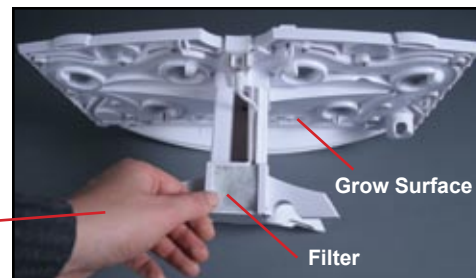
- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | |



2 Remove Pump and Clean Pump Tower

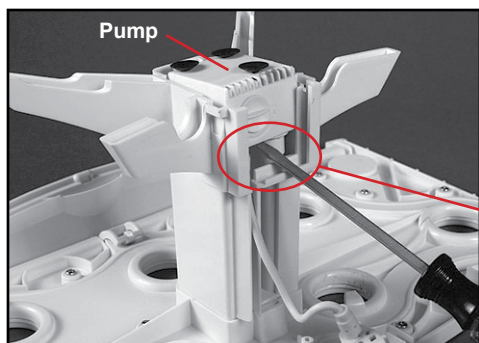
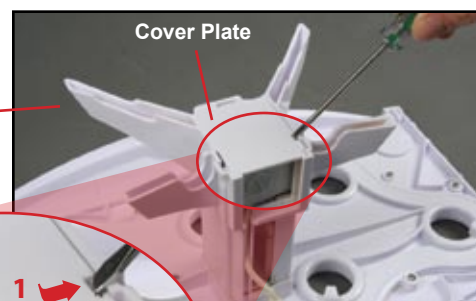
Follow the steps whether you are cleaning a *Pump* from a planted AeroGarden or an empty AeroGarden.

- (A) Unplug your AeroGarden.
- (B) Remove *Bowl* from *Base*.
- (C) Remove *Grow Surface* from *Bowl* and bring to sink or set on towel.
Hint: Lift the View Door and slide one hand into the Bowl to lift.
- (D) Remove *Filter* from the back of the *Pump Tower* and rinse under hot water or discard if you have a new *Filter*.
(Missing or torn *Filter*? See *Troubleshooting* on Page 7.)



- (E) Turn *Grow Surface* upside down and remove *Cover Plate*.

- 1 Insert flat-head screwdriver at an angle into rectangular slot on right side of *Pump Tower* and gently push down on screwdriver.
- 2 Repeat step "1" on rectangular slot on left side of *Pump Tower*.



- (F) Remove the *Pump* by inserting the flat-head screwdriver into the space under the *Pump*. Push down on the handle of the screwdriver to lift the *Pump* out of the *Pump Tower*.



- (G) Pull *Pump Wire* from *Wire Slot* but keep it attached to *Grow Surface*.

- (H) Rinse out any residue or roots from *Pump* and *Pump Tower* in sink. It is okay to get everything (the *Pump*, *Pump Wire* and *Grow Surface*) wet.

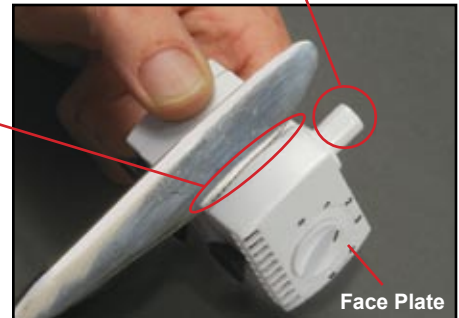


3 Disassemble Pump

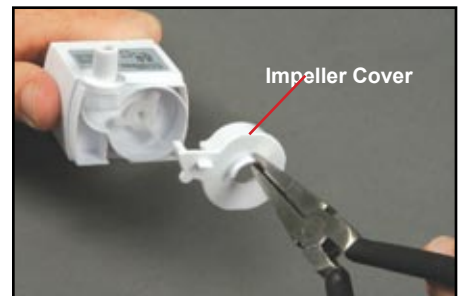
With the *Pump* removed from the *Pump Tower*, but still connected to the *Grow Surface*:

- (A) Use a butter knife to pry off *Face Plate* from *Pump*.
- Place *Pump* on its side on a flat surface.
 - Rest butter knife in the seam between the *Face Plate* and the rest of the *Pump* as shown in picture at right.
 - Tilt the butter knife away from the *Face Plate* and gently pry the *Face Plate* from the *Pump*.
- Hint: Removing the Face Plate requires leverage, not strength. And, don't worry about breaking the Face Plate – it is sturdy.*
- If necessary, use toothbrush to scrub off residue from *Pump* to ease removal of *Face Plate*.

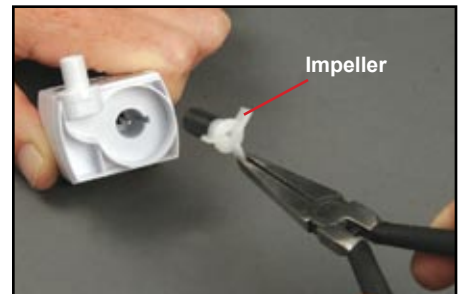
Don't worry if this piece (or the clear tube) is not attached to your Pump when you remove it. Sometimes they come out with the Pump and sometimes they remain in the Pump Tower. Either location is okay.



- (B) Remove *Impeller Cover* with small pliers, tweezers or fingers.



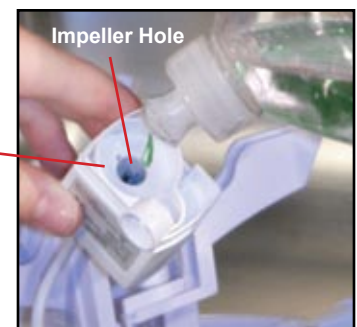
- (C) Remove *Impeller* with small pliers, tweezers or fingers.



4 Clean Pump



- (A) Rinse all *Pump Parts* and *Pump* in sink with hot water.
- (B) Put a drop of dish soap (any brand) in the *Impeller Hole*. The soap will be rinsed out later.
- (C) With soap still in *Impeller Hole*, reassemble the *Pump Parts* (*Impeller*, *Impeller Cover* and *Face Plate*).



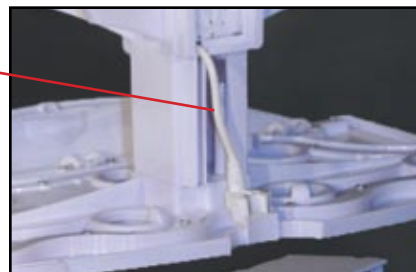
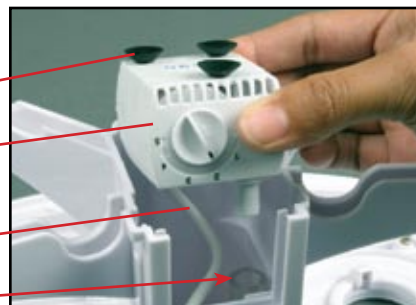
Continued on next page

4 Clean Pump *(continued)*

Ⓓ Insert the *Pump* back into the *Pump Tower* making sure that:

- The *Rubber Feet* on the *Pump* are facing up.
- The *Face Plate* is facing toward you.
- The *Pump Wire* goes behind and underneath the *Pump*.
- *Pump* is securely seated in the tube in the *Pump Tower*.
- *Pump Wire* does not need to go into *Wire Slot* at this time.

• **Do not put *Cover Plate* or *Filter* back in place at this time.**



IMPORTANT!

Ⓔ Run Dish Soap Through Pump

- Turn *Grow Surface* right side up and place it in *AeroGarden Bowl* **without water**. (Yes, without water... just for this step!)

NOTE: If Pump falls out, it was improperly seated in the Pump Tower. Please see Step 4D for instructions on proper placement of Pump in Pump Tower.

- Place *Bowl* back on *Base* and plug in *AeroGarden*. Your *Pump* will start at this time (listen for a humming sound or put hand on *Grow Surface* to feel vibration. If your *Pump Does Not Start*, see *Troubleshooting* on page 7.)
- Allow *Pump* to run for 3 minutes and then unplug *AeroGarden*.



Ⓕ Rinse Dish Soap from Pump & AeroGarden

- Remove *Bowl* from *Base*.
- Remove *Grow Surface* from *Bowl* and turn *Grow Surface* upside down.
- Disassemble *Pump Parts* (see steps 1-3 on page 4).
- Thoroughly rinse all *Pump Parts*, *Pump*, *Pump Tower* and *Bowl* in sink with hot water until no soap residue remains. **Any remaining soap could harm your plants.**

If you are cleaning your Pump due to noise, we recommend repeating "Clean Pump" steps 4A-4F for best results.

Ⓖ When you are finished cleaning the *Pump*, set the *Face Plate Dial* to "2". (If your *Face Plate* does not have numbers, set the *Dial* to the 2 o'clock position, as shown on the black *Face Plate* at right.)

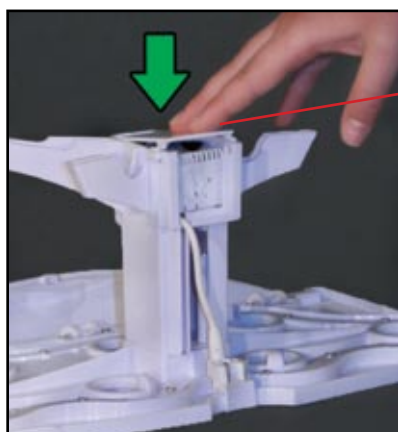
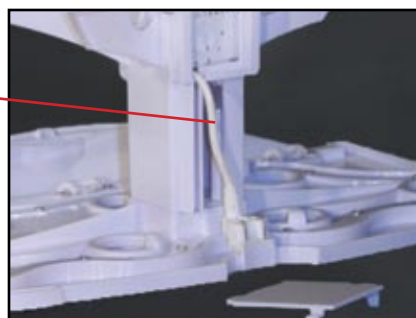
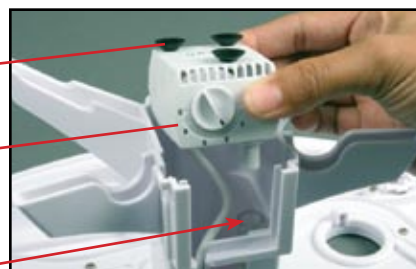
Ⓗ Reassemble *Pump Parts* – *Impeller*, *Impeller Cover* and *Face Plate*.



5 Reassemble Pump

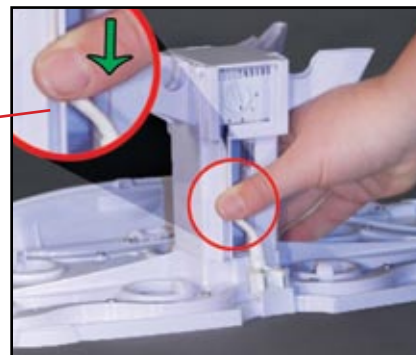
Ⓐ With *Grow Surface* upside down, insert the *Pump* back into the *Pump Tower* making sure that:

- The *Rubber Feet* of the *Pump* are facing up.
- The *Face Plate* is facing toward you.
- *Pump* is securely seated in the tube in the *Pump Tower*.
- The *Pump Wire* goes behind and underneath the *Pump*, and lines up with *Wire Slot*.



Ⓑ Insert *Cover Plate* in the bottom of the *Pump Tower* and push down until all corners snap in place.

Ⓒ Push *Pump Wire* back in *Wire Slot*.



Ⓓ Turn *Grow Surface* right side up and place clean or new *Filter* back in slots in front of the *Pump*. (If you do not have a *Filter*, please see *Troubleshooting* on page 6.)

If you are working with a planted AeroGarden, skip step E (below) and proceed to final steps on page 7.

Ⓔ Replace *Grow Surface* in *Bowl**.

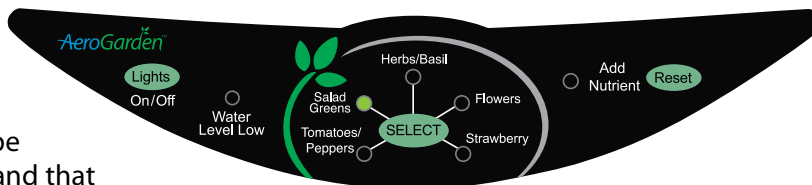
Congratulations!
Your AeroGarden is ready for its next planting!

* If you cleaned your Pump to reduce noise, fill the Bowl with water and plug in your AeroGarden. If the Pump is still noisy, please contact Customer Service.

6 Replace Water & Seed Pods in AeroGarden

If you have cleaned the *Pump* from a planted AeroGarden, it's now the time to reassemble your planted AeroGarden.

- A Turn the *Grow Surface* right side up on a towel or in your sink and replace *Seed Pods* by gently guiding roots into the *Grow Surface Openings*. (Use *Seed Pod placement reference* from page 2.)
- B Pour water from the containers (see page 2) back into *Bowl* and, if needed, add fresh water up to "Fill to Here" inside the *Bowl*.
- C Place *Grow Surface* in *Bowl* and place *Bowl* on *Base*.
- D Plug in AeroGarden and make sure the *Control Panel* is set to the right plant type (*Tomatoes/Peppers*, *Salad Greens*, etc.), and that the *Pump* is working.

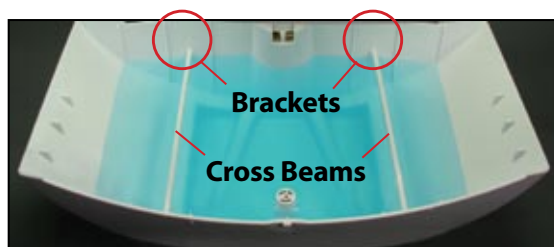


Congratulations! Enjoy your quiet Garden! If your Pump is still noisy, please contact Customer Service.

Troubleshooting

Cross Beams

Sometimes plant roots get tangled around the *Cross Beams* and pull them out of the *Bowl*. Place *Cross Beams* back into *Brackets* inside *Bowl*. The *Brackets* are on the inner front and back walls of the *Bowl*.



Missing or Torn Filters

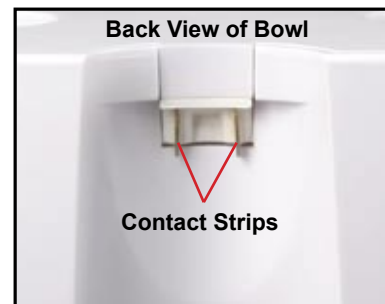
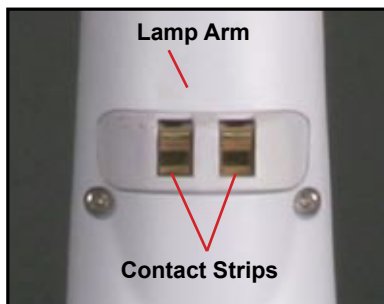
If you have planted more than three *Seed Kits* in your AeroGarden, you may notice the *Filter* has started to degrade. Or, you may have misplaced the *Filter* while cleaning or replanting.

A temporary *Filter* can be made from a green scrubbing pad, like the ones used to scour pots and pans. Be sure the pad is soap-free. Cut a 1-1/2" x 1-5/8" rectangle to use as your temporary *Filter*. New *Pump Filters* can be ordered at www.aerogardendirect.com or by calling AeroGrow Customer Service at 1-800-476-9669.

Pump Does Not Start

If the *Pump* does not start, try each of the following:

- Make sure your AeroGarden is plugged into a working wall socket.
- Press down firmly on the *Bowl*, to make sure it is securely seated on the *Base*.
- With AeroGarden unplugged, remove *Bowl* and check the metal *Contact Strips* on *Lamp Arm* and on back of the *Bowl*. If they are corroded, clean them with an old toothbrush and white vinegar.



- The *Pump* is designed to cycle on and off. It may not start because your AeroGarden is in a "Pump-Off" cycle. To set AeroGarden to "Pump-On" cycle, press the "Select" button on the *Control Panel* until you reach "Salad Greens." (If you have an AeroGarden PRO or AeroGarden Deluxe, set it to the 24-Hour Light Cycle.) Be sure to return the *Control Panel* to the correct plant setting after confirming your *Pump* has come on.

AeroGrow Customer Service
Mon-Fri: 6am - 7pm, Sat-Sun: 8am - 4pm, Mountain Time

1-800-476-9669
www.aerogrow.com